

Taking up your cross

Deon Henning

Matthew 16:24

If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

- Theology or practical advice?

Space Quest II



MacGyver

Quest: Building a tower

Luke 14:27-33

And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has *enough* to finish *it*—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see *it* begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

Quest: Building a tower

Mar 10:21-22, 24b

Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

"Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God!

Quest: Entering by the narrow gate

Luke 13:24

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

Equipped for the quest

God has made provision for us to get hold of "the means" to complete the tower...

God has made provision for us to slim down so that we can "fit" through the narrow gate...

All we must do is bring it along wherever we go

Your cross: Don't be caught without it!

Practically speaking

Carrying your cross – emulating Christ

By carrying His own cross, Jesus was an accomplice in his own murder.

It refers to being an accomplice:
Carrying with you everything you need to orchestrate the death of "riches" that may entangle you.

Abraham carried his cross

Gen 22:3

So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Gen 22:6

So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.

Marriage covenant

Public commitment to love – irrespective of circumstances.

Carrying your cross

Similar commitment to willingness to nail anything to your cross that may be required of you.

What to expect

Proverbs 30:18 - 19 (NASB)

There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Four which I do not understand: The way of an eagle in the sky, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the middle of the sea, And the way of a man with a maid.